has little role to play. However, Government of India has been extending all possible help deemed necessary to the Indian exporters in all such cases.

Jammu and Kashmir as a Tax Free Zone

4996. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to turn Jammu and Kashmir and also Uttaranchal into a "Tax Free Zone" for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have approved on 24th April, 2002 a new industrial policy and other concessions which include, *inter-alia*, extension of excise concession, investment subsidy and setting up of Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation etc., for implementation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

A new industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of Uttaranchal is separately under consideration.

Production of virginia tobacco

4997. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of tobacco for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the target fixed by the Tobacco Board the growers were made to pay a penalty of Rs. 15 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has fixed the target of production detrimental to the interests of the growers for the years, 2002-2003; and

(e) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to safeguard the intertest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Flue Cured